

Dr. Cooper's illustrious career is punctuated by groundbreaking discoveries and substantive impacts in the global fight for a healthy lifestyle. I wish him all the best on the celebration of his ninetieth year and have tremendous respect for his continued professional career as he serves as Chairman of six health and wellness companies and Chairman Emeritus of The Cooper Institute. My sincere appreciation for all that he continues to do to improve lives in our country and across the globe.

HONORING WIAWAKA CENTER FOR WOMEN FOR THE COMPLETED RESTORATION OF THE HOUSE OF TRIX AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wiawaka Center for Women on their successful restoration of the House of Trix, one of the many buildings used by the retreat, and a historic landmark located on Lake George in New York.

The Wiawaka Center for Women has an important role in our community as a place of rest, rejuvenation, and support for women throughout the North Country and the entire United States of America. The center, founded by Mary Fuller in 1903, is on the National Registry of Historic Places and has been a place of retreat for generations of women. Wiawaka is the oldest and longest continuously operating site of its kind in the United States. The center has previously hosted the likes of Georgia O'Keefe, renowned American artist, and has a rich history of supporting and encouraging women in their fight for equal rights.

In renovating and restoring the historic House of Trix, Wiawaka continues to invest in and pursue their mission of providing a place of retreat for all women. This is the only building within the center that hosts a variety of programming including art workshops, wellness classes, presentations, and events. Through perseverance, teamwork, and with support of the community, they restored this historic building back to its original splendor and purpose. After receiving funding through a grant by the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust, Wiawaka will be able to continue their important work of serving the community of women around them.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to thank the Wiawaka Center for Women, and their entire team, for their dedication and commitment in revitalizing and restoring a deeply important historic property in our community. I congratulate them on their achievements thus far and the continued accomplishments of the women this center serves.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER YOCK

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Christopher Yock, who passed away on June 8, 2021 at the age of 57 after battling a structure fire at San Francisco International Airport. He was a beloved member of the San Rafael community and a San Francisco firefighter.

Christopher was born on December 27, 1963 in San Francisco and was raised in the Westborough neighborhood of South San Francisco. Christopher began his journey in the fire service as a firefighter at the Alameda Naval Airbase Station and the Presidio Fire Department before finally achieving his dream of becoming a firefighter for the San Francisco Fire Department. Christopher loved his career in the fire service, and was a beloved firehouse chef who prepared amazing meals for his fellow firefighters.

Christopher lived a full and vibrant life, meeting and making lifelong friends along the way. He had a passion for traveling, cooking, photography, and music. Christopher was a seasoned world traveler, with some of his favorite destinations being Palau, Porto, Maldives, Tahiti, Bali and numerous family trips to Maui. Christopher is survived by his siblings, Jeffery Yock and Jennifer Yock-Lanthier, his son, Cayden Yock (Nancy Galvin), his brother-in-law, Sean Lanthier, and his nephew and nieces, Danielle Gracia, Alyssa Sozio, Adam Lanthier, and Ashley Yock.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Christopher's family and friends and in expressing our deep appreciation for his dedicated service to public safety and the San Francisco Fire Department.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARRY WILLIAMS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe and mourn the passing of Barry Williams, a local civic champion who dedicated his life to bringing people together and who tirelessly advocated for social justice, the middle class, and the everyday working man and woman. Sadly, on May 2nd of this year—Barry passed away at the age of 71 after a tough 17-year battle with Parkinson's disease. Barry's inspirational life, however, will never dissipate from our community's collective spirit as he treated everyone he encountered with love and humility, setting an immortalized example for us all to aspire to.

Born in in 1949 in York, Maine—Barry and his family relocated to Waterford, Connecticut where Barry grew up and acquired his love for the coastline. Barry would spend many hours of his life enjoying the beach, fishing, or sailing, and was invigorated when he caught a fish, which wasn't often. Barry was an avid

reader and eventually made a career of his love for books by attaining a degree at the University of Connecticut in Library Science then even returning to work for his alma mater as an acquisitions librarian.

While working as a librarian, Barry was also an active member of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT local union and even worked his way up to become President of his local. Being elected to lead his union truly changed Barry and ignited a passion in him that he used to champion workers' rights throughout his life. While president of the union, Barry was admired for his ability to fight for his members but still maintain a loving and friendly personality and always face challenges with a positive attitude. Barry's accomplishments and dedication to his union gained him statewide notoriety and led to him being recruited as a Government Affairs Representative by Connecticut statewide AFT President George Springer. Hitting the ground running—Barry made his mark and inspired all those around him with his willingness to put others before himself. Not only did Barry talk the talk but he was always out on the front lines with his brothers and sisters rallying for their right to equal opportunities and fairness in the workplace. Achieving milestone after milestone—Barry set himself apart as one of the top labor leaders in Connecticut and this led to his election in 1985 to represent all workers in the state as the Secretary Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO.

Now a true and tried advocate in the world of unions, Barry decided to go independent and start his own lobbying firm to represent unions and non-profits in 1987. With all the statewide connections he had developed in his decades of organizing and union work—Barry quickly gained traction as someone who could bring opposing sides to the table to talk, and he also became known for a little secret weapon in breaking the ice between opposing forces—his famous homemade bread. Barry was truly a master negotiator because he never lamented, and his genuine and happy nature rubbed off on all those around him which made coming to agreements easier for all parties. Barry continued a very successful lobbying career until later in life when he would receive a devastating diagnosis with Parkinson's disease which would lead to his retirement. Barry however as expected, did not let the disease dampen his love for life and for bringing happiness to all those around him. Even when he was in the later stages of his life in the Hebrew Center for Health and Rehabilitation in West Hartford—his positive demeanor gained him the nickname, "the Mayor," as he was so loved by his fellow residents and staff. Even up until his last Christmas, Barry grew out his beard to transform himself into Santa to pass out small gifts and candy to fellow residents.

Madam Speaker, the loss of Barry leaves a deep void in Connecticut as he was a unifier who brought people of both sides of the aisle together. I ask that my colleagues and this Chamber to join me in expressing our deepest respect for Barry's work and life and send our deepest condolences to the Williams Family. Barry is survived by his wife Susan, children Colby, Jake, Sam, Patel, his sisters Sedona and Kathi, and many other family members and friends who will carry the lasting memory of Barry in their hearts so that his joy, laughter, and compassion will continue to carry on.

SUPPORTING INVEST IN AMERICA
ACT**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of the INVEST in America Act, which will create good paying jobs to rebuild and re-imagine America's surface transportation infrastructure by revitalizing our existing roads and bridges and making investments in passenger rail, public transit, cycling and walking infrastructure, and zero-emission options—while creating safer, more connected communities.

After decades of disinvestment and four years of failed 'Infrastructure Weeks,' I believe that now is the time to make desperately needed investments to rebuild our nation.

According to the 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure assessment by the American Society of Civil Engineers, our nation's infrastructure receives the grade: C-. A continued underinvestment in our infrastructure at current rates will cost \$10 trillion in GDP, more than \$3 million jobs, and \$2.4 trillion in exports over the next 20 years.

We cannot wait. It is time to invest, re-imagine, and revitalize a new American economy by building the architecture of our nation's future. We need transformative plans like the INVEST in America Act and the American Jobs Plan, a once-in-a-century capital investment in America that will create millions of good-paying-jobs and rebuild our country's infrastructure, including high-speed rail.

We need to recognize the importance of investing in high-speed rail. And I will continue working for more rail investment and ensure that federal dollars fund high-speed rail projects across this country—including projects in Connecticut, which total almost \$10B in CT's new initiative, TIME FOR CT and along the Northeast Corridor which currently has \$117B of needed investment through their project titled CONNECT2035 and New Haven's Downtown Crossing, which I was proud to help secure \$20 million for New Haven to reconnect its downtown with both the outlying neighborhoods and the train station—helping the local business community flourish.

We can make opportunity real for millions with good-paying jobs. And, we can strengthen our economy. So, let us move boldly. And let us start rebuilding America.

IN HONOR OF RUSS POPPE

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor a true public servant, the Executive Director of the Harris County Flood Control District, Russ Poppe.

Russ is stepping down on July 2, 2021. During his five-year tenure as Executive Director, Russ made a lasting and significant impact to reduce the threat of flooding in Harris County.

Russ's time at the Flood Control District was spent building solid relationships at the local, state, and federal levels. Russ's excellent network of contacts is partly responsible for the Flood Control District bringing in over one billion dollars in federal grants in the past few years. He has earned the trust of various agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Russ led the Flood Control District through the worst rainfall event in American history, Hurricane Harvey in 2017. In the aftermath of Harvey, Russ helped former County Judge Ed Emmett pass the historic \$2.5 billion Harris County Flood Bond in August 2018. After voters approved the bond program, Russ became the head of a multi-billion-dollar enterprise, all with the purpose of helping his community in Harris County.

Since that time, under Russ's leadership, the Flood Control District has started over 200 flood damage reduction projects and has increased project delivery volume over ten times.

Russ's leadership and professionalism will be missed at the Flood Control District. Russ always practiced leadership by inspiration, not intimidation. Russ and his staff have spent countless hours working with my staff and me to ensure we understand the tremendous challenges the Harris County area faces when it comes to reducing flooding.

I wish to thank him for his service and wish him all the best. I am certain that he will continue his success at the next stop on his career journey.

RECOGNIZING JOEL GOMEZ AS MY
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Encinitas native Joel Gomez for my June Constituent of the Month. Recent graduate of Classical Academy High, Joel Gomez has not only represented California's 49th Congressional District around the country with his impressive athletic ability, but also the United States on the world stage as a medal award-winning Paralympic athlete. A member of the United States Paralympic Track and Field team, Joel has competed with great success in Switzerland, Peru and Dubai, earning two gold medals and one silver medal in the 1500 meters and 400 meters events. On top of that, Joel was named the 2019 Male Junior Para Athlete of the Year by USA Track & Field.

Still just 17 years old, Joel is currently preparing to represent the United States as a member of Team USA once again at the Tokyo Paralympics. Although the COVID-19 pandemic put a hold on much of the athletic communities' plans, Joel remained positive in his training and competition efforts, a perseverance he is no stranger to. With the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics and Olympics, Joel had the opportunity to train,

stay motivated, and work harder than ever for what he hopes will soon be the pinnacle of his running career upon successful qualification at the U.S. Paralympic Team Trials.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Joel is an accomplished student, and is set to attend Purdue University this fall, where he intends to study industrial engineering. He also plays 4 instruments and sings, and in 2017, he made it to the finals in the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest County Idol Season 8. I'm honored to represent such an impressive young man, and I'm eager to watch and cheer him on as he races on the behalf of Team USA. Competing at an international level is an incredible feat, especially at such a young age, and I am proud to stand behind this remarkable, well-rounded young man, who I'm pleased to recognize as my June Constituent of the Month.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE PAUL MITCHELL

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my friend and colleague, Representative Paul Mitchell, who retired after proudly serving his constituents from Michigan's 10th Congressional District.

Paul was recently diagnosed with stage IV renal cancer and after great medical treatment is on his way to a continued recovery. While my heart hurts for his family, I am optimistic Paul will pull through. He has shown us time and time again that he is not only a man of principle, but also a fighter.

I first met Paul when we came in the same class after being elected in 2016. We served together on the House Armed Services Committee and we shared the same hallway in the Cannon House Office Building. Serving on the House Armed Services Committee, we had the opportunity to travel and visit troops in Germany and the Middle East, and build our friendship. I continued to work with Paul as we also served together on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Throughout the years, I got to know Paul's humor and his dedication towards service.

While Paul and I did not always agree on policy, I always knew that I could have a candid discussion with my friend. Our conversations were cordial and with a shared goal of improving the lives of the American people and upholding our democracy.

In order to achieve these goals, Paul was not afraid to cross party lines. During his last term, Paul showed incredible courage in standing up for our democracy and supporting the 2020 election results.

It is with this same courage that I know Paul will use to fight this disease. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking former Representative Paul Mitchell for his leadership and service to our country and his constituents.

As Paul begins his treatment, I want to send him my best. I look forward to the day when we can celebrate Paul's remission.